

What is claimed is:

1. A scanning camera comprising:

an imaging device for capturing an image having an image pickup element,

5 a support shaft attached to the imaging device for changing a photographing direction,

a frame for supporting the imaging device through the support shaft,

10 a driver attached to the frame for rotating the imaging device, and

a flexible connector electrically connected to the image pickup element and having two planar portions, said two planar portions extending to the frame from at least two positions of the imaging device at opposite sides relative to an axis of the support shaft such that the planar portions of the flexible connector are arranged parallel to the axis of the support shaft.

15

2. A scanning camera according to claim 1, wherein said flexible connector is arranged in front of the imaging element in the photographing direction within a range of a rotational motion of the imaging device.

20

3. A scanning camera according to claim 1, wherein said planar portions of the flexible connector extending from the at least two positions of the imaging device have substantially identical elastic forces when the imaging device faces a predetermined photographing direction.

25

4. A scanning camera according to claim 1, wherein said two planar portions of the flexible connector extend from the imaging

30

device substantially symmetrical with respect to the axis of the support shaft.

5. A scanning camera comprising:

- 5 an imaging device for capturing an image having an image pickup element,
 - a first support shaft for supporting the imaging device to change a photographing direction of the imaging device,
 - a first frame for rotationally supporting the imaging device
 - 10 through the first support shaft,
 - a first driver attached to the first frame for rotating the imaging device,
 - a second support shaft attached to the first frame for rotationally supporting the first frame for changing a
 - 15 photographing direction,
 - a second frame attached to the second support shaft for supporting the first frame through the second support shaft,
 - a second driver attached to the second frame for rotating the first frame, and
 - 20 a flexible connector electrically connected to the imaging element and having two planar portions, said two planar portions extending to the first frame from at least two positions of the imaging device at two opposite sides relative to an axis of the first support shaft such that the planar portions are parallel to
 - 25 the axis of the first support shaft, said two planar portions extending from the at least two positions of the first frame to the second frame at two opposite sides relative to an axis of the second support shaft such that the planar portions are parallel to the axis of the second support shaft.

30

6. A scanning camera according to claim 5, wherein said flexible connector connected to the first frame is arranged in front of the imaging element in the photographing direction within a range of a rotational motion of the imaging device.

5

7. A scanning camera according to claim 5, wherein said planar portions of the flexible connector connected to the first frame have substantially identical elastic forces at the two sides relative to the axis of the first support shaft when the imaging device faces a predetermined photographing direction.

10

8. A scanning camera according to claim 5, wherein said planar portions of the flexible connector connected to the second frame from the first frame have substantially identical elastic forces at the two sides relative to the axis of the second support shaft when the imaging device faces a predetermined photographing direction.

15

9. A scanning camera according to claim 5, wherein said flexible connector extends from the imaging device substantially symmetrical with respect to the axis of the first support shaft.

20

10. A scanning camera according to claim 5, wherein said flexible connector extends from the first frame substantially symmetrical to the axis of the second support shaft.

25